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10/723,979	11/26/2003	David B. Gilgen	RSW9-2003-0248US1 (7161-1)	9498
46320 7590 07/24/2007 CAREY, RODRIGUEZ, GREENBERG & PAUL, LLP STEVEN M. GREENBERG 950 PENINSULA CORPORATE CIRCLE SUITE 3020 BOCA RATON, FL 33487			EXAMINER DENG, ANNA CHEN	
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/723,979	<b>Applicant(s)</b> GILGEN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Anna Deng	<b>Art Unit</b> 2191	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 May 2007.  
 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.  
 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
         1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
         2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
         3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s).**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is in response to amendment filed on 5/31/2007.
2. Claim 7 has been amended.
3. Claims 1-20 are pending.
4. Claims 1-20 stand finally rejected.

***Response to Amendment***

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

2. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as the claimed subject matter lacks a practical application of a judicial exception (law of nature, abstract idea, naturally occurring article/phenomenon) since it fails to produce a useful, concrete and tangible result.

Claims 7-9 set forth a memory leak detection and reporting system that is computer program claimed as computer listings per se, i.e., the descriptions or expressions of the programs, are not physical "things." They are neither computer components nor statutory processes, as they are not "acts" being performed. Such claimed computer programs do not define any structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and other claimed elements of a computer which permit the computer program's functionality to be realized. In contrast, a claimed computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program is a computer element which defines structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and the rest of the computer which permit the computer program's functionality to be realized, and is thus statutory. See Lowry, 32 F. 3d at 1583-84, 32 USPQ2d at 1035 (see 1300 OG 142142 (November 22, 2005) (in particular, see Annex IV (a)). (see MPEP 2106.01 "Computer-Related Nonstatutory Subject Matter") (in particular, see "I. FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTIVE MATERIAL: "DATA STRUCTURES" REPRESENTING DESCRIPTIVE MATERIAL PER SE OR COMPUTER PROGRAMS REPRESENTING COMPUTER LISTINGS PER SE").

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3, 5-17, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dahlstedt et al. US 2004/0133895 A1 (hereinafter Dahlstedt), in view of Tarditi US 6,625,808 B1 (hereinafter Tarditi).

**Per Claim 1:**

Dahlstedt teaches A memory leak detection and reporting method (Dahlstedt, [0007], "The invention provides a system and method for detecting memory leaks") comprising the steps of: time stamping allocated ones of resources in a resource pool (Dahlstedt, [0009], "a memory space for storing objects , ... stamping each object with a time stamp when created"); detecting memory leaks by inspecting individual timestamps for said allocated resources to determine whether said allocated resources have become overly idle (Dahlstedt, [0007] "the invention provides a mechanism by with objects in the memory space of a virtual machine are analyzed as to whether they are "warm" or "cold", i.e., how long they have been persisted in memory without being accessed or referenced by another object"); and, for each allocated resource determined to have become overly idle (Dahlstedt, [0008], "the invention comprises a system for determining potential memory leaks in a run-time environment, ...an object temperature analyzer that determines the status of warm objects and cold objects in said memory, and the links between said warm and cold objects, and, a report mechanism that reports information about said links, for use in determining potential memory leaks", also see, FIG. 3, [0021], Dahlstedt teaches cold objects as determined to have become overly idle, "The time stamp for each object is checked against the current system time, and those objects that have a time stamp older than a particular

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period of time are marked as cold objects"). Dahlstedt does not explicitly teach identifying calling code segments receiving said allocated resources; and identity of a corresponding one of said calling code segments. However, Tarditi teaches identifying calling code segments receiving said allocated resources, reporting an identity of a corresponding one of said calling code segments. (Tarditi, FIG. 4, call stack 402 or 406, col. 11, lines 10-49, "a live object is an object which has an identifiable pointer in the root set, e.g., call stack 402 or 406... for each transition from a GC frame to a non-GC frame in the call stack 402, creation function 304 allocates space on the stack frame for a transition record, e.g., transition records 420 and 424. The transition store select pointer and state information, as well as a pointer to the immediate past transition record, e.g., transition record 424."), the transition record read in the limitation of reporting identity of a corresponding one of said calling code segments.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the computer art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method disclosed by Dahlstedt to include identifying calling code segments receiving said allocated resources; reporting an identity of a corresponding one of said calling code segments using the teaching of Tarditi. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to facilitate automated memory management among heterogeneous components of a computer program (Tarditi, col. 4, lines 40-42).

**Per Claim 2:**

Dahlstedt teaches a memory leak detection and reporting method (Dahlstedt, [0007]), Dahlstedt does not explicitly teach the step of retrieving identities for individual ones of said calling code segments from an associated calling stack when said individual ones of said calling code segments acquire one of said allocated resources. However, Tarditi teaches the step of retrieving identities for individual ones of said calling code segments from an associated calling stack when said individual ones of said calling code segments acquire one of said allocated resources (Tarditi, FIG. 6, step 606, col. 12, lines 58-63).

**Per Claim 3:**

Dahlstedt teaches a memory leak detection and reporting method (Dahlstedt, [0007]), Dahlstedt does not explicitly teach the step of performing said detecting and reporting steps in a separate thread of execution. However, Tarditi teaches the step of performing said detecting and reporting steps in a separate thread of execution (Tarditi, col. 10, lines 42-51, col. 11, lines 2-7).

**Per Claim 5:**

Dahlstedt teaches a memory leak detection and reporting method (Dahlstedt, [0007]), Dahlstedt does not explicitly teach the step of performing said detecting and reporting steps responsive to allocating one of said resources in said resource pool. However, Tarditi teaches the step of performing said detecting and reporting steps responsive to allocating one of said resources in said resource pool (Tarditi, col. lines 23-45, "when execution of the program proceeds to a creation function, the creation function creates a transition record on the stack frame of the particular thread in which the function call is identified. The transition record is populated with select pointer and state information").

**Per Claim 6:**

The rejection of claim 1 is incorporated, and Dahlstedt further teaches the step of performing said detecting and reporting steps responsive to an elapsing interval (FIG. 4, [0022], "The system is then allowed to run for check time  $T_{check}$ , in step 98. This process is repeated in step 100 for each object in memory. In step 102, the system receives a request, i.e., either an automatic request or a determined request by the operator, to view the object display or object map. In step 104, the time stamp is checked for each object in the memory... If  $T_{check} - T_{access}$  is greater than a specified time  $T_{limit}$ , the object may be considered cold...all object in memory will now be indicated as being warm or cold. In step 110, all cold objects that point to another are clustered together... These are of particular importance to the software developer since thy represent large potential memory leaks").

**Per Claim 7 (Currently Amended):**

Dahlstedt teaches A memory leak detection and reporting system ([0007]) comprising: a resource pool comprising a plurality of allocable resources ([0008], "a memory space for storing objects"); a pool manager programmed to manage allocation of said allocable resources to calling code segments ([0009], "creating objects in memory of a run-time environment; stamping each object with a time stamp when created; updating the time stamp as each object is accessed or referenced"); and, a data store of allocated resources (Dahlstedt, FIG. 4, [0022]), wherein the pool manager detects memory leaks by inspecting individual timestamps for said allocated resources to determine whether said allocated resources have become overly idle (Dahlstedt, [0007] "the invention provides a mechanism by with objects in the memory space of a virtual machine are analyzed as to whether they are "warm" or "cold", i.e., how long they have been persisted in memory without being accessed or referenced by another object"); and, for each allocated resource determined to have become overly idle (Dahlstedt, [0008], "the invention comprises a system for determining potential memory leaks in a run-time environment, ...an object temperature analyzer that determines the status of warm objects and cold objects in said memory, and the links between said warm and cold objects, and, a report mechanism that reports information about said links, for use in determining potential memory leaks", also see, FIG. 3, [0021], Dahlstedt teaches cold objects as determined to have become overly idle, "The time stamp for each object is checked against the current system time, and those objects that have a time stamp older than a particular period of time are marked as cold objects"); Dahlstedt does not explicitly teach corresponding identities for calling code segments receiving said allocated resources; reports an identity of a corresponding one of said calling code segments to the data store . However, Tarditi teaches corresponding identities for calling code segments receiving said allocated resources; reports an identity of a corresponding one of said calling code segments to the data store (Tarditi, col. 10, lines 18-28).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the computer art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method disclosed by Dahlstedt to include corresponding identities for calling code segments receiving said allocated resources; reports an identity of a corresponding one of said calling code segments to the data store using the teaching of Tarditi. The modification would be

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obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to facilitate automated memory management among heterogeneous components of a computer program (Tarditi, col. 4, lines 40-42).

**Per Claim 8:**

Dahlstedt teaches pool manager (Dahlstedt, [0009]); Dahlstedt does not explicitly teach a communicative coupling to a call stack; and, correlation logic for correlating a calling code segment reference disposed in said call stack to a concurrently allocated one of said allocable resources. However, Tarditi teaches a communicative coupling to a call stack (Tarditi, FIG. 3, col. 9, lines 62-67, col. 10, lines 1-10); and, correlation logic for correlating a calling code segment reference disposed in said call stack to a concurrently allocated one of said allocable resources (Tarditi, FIG. 3, col. 10, lines 11-28).

**Per Claim 9 (Currently Amended):**

The rejection of claim 7 is incorporated, and Dahlstedt further teaches a garbage collector coupled to said resource pool (Dahlstedt, [0007], "The invention provides a system and method for detecting memory leaks in a garbage collected environment").

**Per Claim 10:**

Dahlstedt teaches A memory leak detection and reporting method (Dahlstedt, [0007]) comprising the steps of: allocating a resource from a resource pool, time stamping said allocated resource and recording an identity for a calling code segment acquiring said allocated resource (Dahlstedt, FIG. 4, [0022], "the object header includes a time stamp field which is initially set as  $T_{init}$ "); updating said time stamp when said allocated resource is accessed (Dahlstedt, [0022], "...as the object is used, or referenced by a subsequent object, the time stamp field is updated with the last access time  $T_{access}$  for this particular object"); inspecting said time stamp to determine if said allocated resource has become overly idle (Dahlstedt, FIG. 4, [0022], "The system is then allowed to run for a check time  $T_{check}$ , in step 98"); and, if it is determined that said allocated resource has become overly idle, reporting a suspected memory leak in association with said allocated resource (Dahlstedt, FIG. 4, [0022], "This process is



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repeated in step 100 for each object in memory. In step 102, the system receives a request, i.e., either an automatic request or a determined request by the operator, to view the object display or object map. In step 104, the time stamp is checked for each object in the memory... If  $T_{\text{check}} - T_{\text{access}}$  is greater than a specified time  $T_{\text{limit}}$ , the object may be considered cold... all object in memory will now be indicated as being warm or cold. In step 110, all cold objects that point to another are clustered together... These are of particular importance to the software developer since they represent large potential memory leaks"); Dahlstedt does not explicitly teach further reporting said recorded identity for said calling code segment which had acquired said allocated resource. However, Tarditi teaches further reporting said recorded identity for said calling code segment which had acquired said allocated resource (Tarditi, col. 13, lines 16-25).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the computer art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method disclosed by Dahlstedt to include further reporting said recorded identity for said calling code segment which had acquired said allocated resource using the teaching of Tarditi. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to facilitate automated memory management among heterogeneous components of a computer program (Tarditi, col. 4, lines 40-42).

**Per Claim 11:**

Dahlstedt teaches A memory leak detection and reporting method (Dahlstedt, [0007]); Dahlstedt does not explicitly teach the step of performing said inspecting and reporting steps in a separate thread of execution. However, Tarditi teaches the step of performing said inspecting and reporting steps in a separate thread of execution (Tarditi, col. 11, lines 3-5).

**Per Claim 12:**

The rejection of claim 10 is incorporated, and Dahlstedt further teaches the steps of performing said allocating, inspecting and reporting steps in a pool manager (Dahlstedt, [007]-[0008]).

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**Per Claim 13:**

The rejection of claim 10 is incorporated, and Dahlstedt further teaches the step of performing said inspecting and reporting steps responsive to allocating another resource in said resource pool (Dahlstedt, [0007]-[0008]).

**Per Claim 14:**

The rejection of claim 10 is incorporated, and Dahlstedt further teaches the step of performing said inspecting and reporting steps responsive to an elapsing interval (Dahlstedt, FIG. 3, [0021], lines 13-29).

**Per Claims 15-17, and 19:**

These claims are the machine readable storage version of the claimed method discussed above (claims 1-3, and 6), wherein all claim limitations also have been addressed and/or covered in cited areas as set forth above. Thus, accordingly these claims are also obvious.

**Per Claim 20:**

This claim is the machine readable storage version of the claimed method discussed above (claim 10), wherein all claim limitations also have been addressed and/or covered in cited areas as set forth above. Thus, accordingly this claim is also obvious.

5. Claims 4 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dahlstedt et al. US 2004/0133895 A1 (hereinafter Dahlstedt), in view of Tarditi US 6,625,808 B1 (hereinafter Tarditi), and further in view of Fu US 2004/0172579 A1 (hereinafter Fu).

**Per Claim 4:**

The rejection of claim 2 is incorporated, and further, the combination of Dahlstedt and Tarditi does not explicitly teach the steps of: for calling code segment in which a resource is allocated, inducing a

placebo error condition in close proximity to code for allocating said resource; and, reading error data from said calling stack produced by said placebo error condition, said error data comprising identity information for said calling code segment. However, Fu teaches teach the steps of: for calling code segment in which a resource is allocated, inducing a placebo error condition in close proximity to code for allocating said resource (Fu, FIG. 5, step 600, FIG. 6, steps 610, 620, 630, [0042]-[0047], "in decision block 530, a determination is made whether minima point processing subroutine 600 returned an indication of a memory leak. If a memory leak was found, processing proceeds to block 599 where the memory usage processing subrouting 500 ends and a memory leak message is returned to the calling routing" lines 17-25, and [0045], "subroutine 600 proceeds to decision block 610 where a test is made to determine whether at least four memory usage data minima point were found. If less that four memory leak message data minima points were found, processing proceeds to block 699, where subroutine 600 ends and a memory leak message is returned to the calling routine"); and, reading error data from said calling stack produced by said placebo error condition, said error data comprising identity information for said calling code segment (Fu, [0044]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the computer art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method disclosed by the combination of Dahlstedt and Tarditi to include the steps of: for calling code segment in which a resource is allocated, inducing a placebo error condition in close proximity to code for allocating said resource; and, reading error data from said calling stack produced by said placebo error condition, said error data comprising identity information for said calling code segment using the teaching of Fu. The modification would be obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to detecting memory leaks in computing environments that does not require examining all aspects of a computer's memory (Fu, [0003], lines 22-24).

**Per Claim 18:**

This claim is the machine readable storage version of the claimed method discussed above (claim 4), wherein all claim limitations also have been addressed and/or covered in cited areas as set forth above. Thus, accordingly this claim is also obvious.

***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments filed 5/31/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued:

... Applicants are entirely unclear as to why the claimed "data store" is also not considered hardware. Software alone is incapable of storing anything since it is functional descriptive material.

Examiner responses:

The data store as recited in Specification, "The data store of allocated resources 140 can include a listing of all resources in the resource pool 110 which have been allocated previously to calling code segments ... (Specification, p. 10, [0018])", that does connect to hardware (i.e., a device, a physical memory). Data store can be software (i.e., database, data structure). There is no description to specify the "data store" is a software or hardware in the Specification or Drawing. It appears to the examiner, the system in Claims 5-8 is a software system.

Applicant argued:

Claim 1

The Examiner's analysis present a logical inconsistency. The Examiner 's admits that Dahlstedt does not teach the claimed "identifying calling code segments receiving said allocated resources." However, the Examiner asserts that Dahlstedt teaches "reporting an identity of corresponding one of said calling code segments."

Examiner's responses:

Tarditi teaches reporting an identity of a corresponding one of said calling code segments (Tarditi, FIG. 4, call stack 402 or 406, col. 11, lines 10-49, "a live object is an object which has an identifiable pointer in the root set, e.g., call stack 402 or 406... for each transition from a GC frame to a non-GC

frame in the call stack 402, creation function 304 allocates space on the stack frame for a transition record, e.g., transition records 420 and 424. The transition store select pointer and state information, as well as a pointer to the immediate past transition record, e.g., transition record 424", emphasis added), Tarditi teaches the transition records read in the limitation of reporting an identity of a corresponding one of said calling code segments.

### Claim 3

However, Applicants are unclear as to where, specifically, Tarditi teaches that the detecting and reporting steps are performed in separate thread of execution.

#### Examiner's responses:

Tarditi teaches detecting and reporting steps in a separate thread of execution (Tarditi, col. 10, lines 11-51, "when creation function 304 is invoked, it creates a transition record on the stack frame of the program thread in which the foreign function call is found, and loads a pointer to the last transition record from the per-thread state. ... the stack frame for each thread with transition records providing the necessary pointer and state information to traverse any number of foreign function call embedded within the program", also, col. 11, lines 2-11, "the data structures include call stacks 402 and 406 associated with two separate threads of program execution ...", emphasis added), Tarditi teaches a transition record read in the limitation detecting and reporting steps in separate thread of execution.

### Claim 5

Dahlstedt fails to teach the claimed reporting step.

#### Examiner's responses:

Tarditi teaches the step of performing said detecting and reporting steps responsive to allocating one of said resources in said resource pool (Tarditi, col. lines 23-45, "when execution of the program proceeds to a creation function, the creation function creates a transition record on the stack frame of the

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particular thread in which the function call is identified. The transition record is populated with select pointer and state information").

#### Claims 4 and 18

Applicants are unable to determine what specific teaching in Fu is being relied upon to teach claimed "inducing a placebo error condition in close proximity to code for allocating said resource.

#### Examiner's responses:

Fu teaches teach inducing a placebo error condition in close proximity to code for allocating said resource (Fu, FIG. 5, step 600, FIG. 6, steps 610, 620, 630, [0042]-[0047], "in decision block 530, a determination is made whether minima point processing subroutine 600 returned an indication of a memory leak. If a memory leak was found, processing proceeds to block 599 where the memory usage processing subrouting 500 ends and a memory leak message is returned to the calling routing" lines 17-25, and [0045], "subroutine 600 proceeds to decision block 610 where a test is made to determine whether at least four memory usage data minima point were found. If less that four memory leak message data minima points were found, processing proceeds to block 699, where subroutine 600 ends and a memory leak message is returned to the calling routine"); Fu teaches the steps 610, 620, and 630 in FIG. 6, read in the limitation of "placebo error condition" in claims 4 and 18 in the present application.

#### **Conclusion**

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136 (a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anna Deng whose telephone number is 571-272-5989. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Zhen can be reached on 571-272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Anna Deng



July 10, 2007



WEI ZHEN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER